

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 15303 131953Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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O P 131933Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8247
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

S E C R E T LONDON 15303

NODIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1, 2, 3
TAGS: PARM, SF
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICA ON NON-PROLIFERATION

REF: STATE 218548

1. I CALLED ON DAVID OWEN SEPTEMBER 13, DESCRIBED OUR APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICA DETAILED IN MY INSTRUCTIONS AND ASKED THAT THE UK MAKE A SUPPORTIVE DEMARCHE TO THE SAG EMPHASIZING NEED FOR EARLY NPT ADHERENCE AND SPEEDY APPLICATION OF INTERIM SAFEGUARDS AT THE VALINDABA ENRICHMENT FACILITY.

2. OWEN OBVIOUSLY HAD MORE THAN AN INKLING OF WHAT I HAD COME TO TALK ABOUT. LOOKING AT HIS BRIEFING PAPER, HE IMMEDIATELY AGREED TO OUR REQUEST AND SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN PRETORIA TO REITERATE HMG'S EARLIER DEMARCHE. OWEN REMARKED ON IMPORTANCE OF IAEA PRESENCE AT VALINDABA AND WARNED THAT INSPECTION CONDUCTED SOLELY BY WESTERN POWERS WOULD BE INSUFFICIENTLY CONVINCING. I PICKED UP THAT THREAD, EXPLAINED

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WHAT WE HAD IN MIND CONCERNING IMMEDIATE SAFEGUARDS ON VALINDABA AND STRESSED THAT WE AGREED IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH AN EARLY IAEA PRESENCE THERE.

3. OWEN THEN MENTIONED PROBLEM THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD ASK FOR QUID PRO QUOS BEFORE UNDERTAKING STEPS NECESSARY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS PEACEFUL NUCLEAR INTENTIONS. IN

ADDITION TO FUEL SUPPLY, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD PURSUE
ISSUE OF EJECTION FROM IAEA GOVERNING BOARD. OWEN
SAID WE WOULD HAVE TO THINK MORE ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE
THAT. HMG WOULD OPPOSE SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPULSION FROM
THE AGENCY PROPER, BUT WAS NOT INCLINED TO FIGHT FOR
SOUTH AFRICAN REINSTATEMENT TO THE BOARD WHICH WAS
PROBABLY A LOSING PROPOSITION.

4. OWEN CONCLUDED DISCUSSION BY SAYING HE CONTINUED
TO WORRY ABOUT KALAHARI SITE. IF IT WASN'T A NUCLEAR
TEST SITE, WHAT WAS IT? I TOLD HIM WASHINGTON HADN'T
LOST INTEREST IN THAT PARTICULAR QUESTION NOR WOULD IT.

5. I PRESUME THE EMBASSY WILL BE ASKED TO PASS TO HMG
THE RESULTS OF OUR DEMARCHE IN WASHINGTON TO THE SOUTH
AFRICANS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIS WOULD ENABLE THE
UK TO TAILOR ITS SUPPORTIVE PRESENTATION IN PRETORIA
IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE WAY. IT WOULD ALSO BE
HELPFUL IN ENSURING THAT THE BRITISH MOVE AT OUR SIDE
IF WE KEEP THEM INFORMED OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN THIS MATTER.

BREWSTER

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NNN

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